Pal Poli Rome Thu June 12
1762

My dear Maria

I have just rec'd yours of the 4th & am much affected at your kind concern for me & obliged by all the nice information you send from my dear ones in Eccleston Sq.re That dear Eleanor you found so well & so pleased in the midst of Chandos charming family

My poor dear Maria I am afflicted on your account That the tremendous sums I have to pay Consequent on my dear wifes death, how prevent me sending for the presents what I offer'd you & what I really owe you, but it will not be long before I am able to do it, as I am glad to tell you that it is all being settled far better than I expected & by the end of the year I shall be quite free.— It grieves me to think that my dear wife was in agony at the expence she knew was falling upon me, even to a fine by the laws of France in the case of a death in a hotel — How cruel for had she been told by the Doctors that she was so soon to die no doubt she

would come on to Rome to her own house & home
but she was told of the chance of her recovery &
that the journey to Rome would inspect it &
even her going to Paris & Geneva was planned
whereas no doubt She would have died on the
road - All this grieves me massacres & cast me
off from the last & precious days of our 34
years of anxious life, in which She had much
to communicate as I find by her papers &
peace to her soul - She was a wonderfull
parent as the welfare of her 6 children was
always prefer & in a letter I find from dear
Henry to her written when he heard of her
danger "he says that all we can expect to be
able to do in this life is to fulfil the duties that
God has given us - That She having really done
this as the love & respect of her children proves
there remained nothing wanting to make her
approaching death happy & consolatory as
such was the will of Providence which in its
mercy had granted her so much" - I think
this she felt tho it must have been a cruel
blow to her that we separated even at the
moment of her death when I was prevented

arriving by the laborious post-work until 2 days after — Yet my children had been there with her Mary & her husband, & lastly Eleanor so that she had consolation in her last moments — Frederick Gale thought it well that I should not arrive as I should have found her speechless

I am afraid that her disorder was intensely constitutional, yet I have great faith in your knowledge in your remedies, but "a prophet is never believed in his own country"

I am glad to be able to give a good account of myself — I have now become like myself almost, for returning to the cares of others I was constrained to suspend my own & the active life did me good service & perhaps has now set me up — Then I continue to be fortunate in most of the difficult & responsible things I have had to do & my discretion is severely taxed — lately my death was accidently reported (owing to a Russian Prince having died under mine in the same Palace) when I was gratified by a warm expression of respect from the Roman people & my Fds & what confirmed the news was that the Royal Arms in front of my Palace that Morning was cracked &c I ordered it